

SPARK GAP TIMES

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LOST OR STRAYED?

On page 6 of this issue of SGT you will find a report on the number of OOTC Members with whom we have lost contact, one way or another. Of the 2,906 members signed by OOTC, 981 do not receive SGT - and, so far as we know, no longer know that OOTC exists.

Of the 981 who have strayed away, 133 are, completely lost. That is, we have no way to contact them. They were OOTC dropouts for such a length of time that their whereabouts is unknown to us. Last December, we were digging into this matter and in the apparent need for OOTC to arrange in some manner, to provide SGT for all members. The new 1991 callbook had just arrived and we asked if anyone could help in the matter of looking up the 1991 callbook addresses of all 1518 members of OOTC believed to be alive. We received offers from Harry Gartsman, W6ATC, from Leo Meyerson, WOGFQ, and from Bob Gleason, W3KW. In the same group of helpers came Ralph Cabanillas, W6IL. We sent 30+ pages of material to Ralph, asking for comments & suggesting that he do a few pages, fully planning on sending the remainder to Harry, Bob and Leo. Well, what happened but Ralph must have burned a barrel of 'midnight oil' and before we knew what was happening, he returned the 30+ pages, having reviewed every single members listing in the callbook. It took us three days to enter the information in the database! We want to thank Harry, Bob and Leo, and assure them that we didn't leave them out on purpose! Ralph is to blame!

Of the 1518 members assumed to be alive, Ralph found 133 with serious problems - either their call had been lost (license not renewed) or they had become Silent Keys and, in quite a few cases, their call had apparently been lost and reassigned to a different person. Now, the FCC has not been reassigning calls for some time. This indicates that by not keeping in touch with our members, significant numbers may pass away, and we don't even know they're gone! This is not the best way to run a railroad!

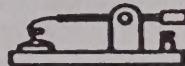
Every organization is facing problems with keeping membership - this is particularly true of we old-timers groups. It is partly the result of our efforts to gain membership. We attend conventions, and ham-meets, and enroll new members who come in simply because they are there to spend money and have a good time. They have no real interest, and with our way of operating, failing to generate a sustaining interest they drop out or simply become fully inactive. This is not likely to change. We can however, create a feeling of belonging and of permanence by seeing to it that every member we sign will be continually and repeatedly reminded of his/her membership by receipt of SGT - telling of our activities, and providing stories and reports of interest, challenging them to take part in the wonderful associations available to members. If we fail to do this we can certainly be accused of not caring! To my way of thinking, the option of not subscribing to SGT is not a viable policy!

In closing, let me send a heart-felt thanks to all, Ralph, Leo, Bob and Harry, and to all the rest who, if we had asked personally would respond. Let's all work to make OOTC a warm, meaningful group of caring hams! Offer your suggestions and help - your help is needed!

Spark-Gap Times

Published By

The Old Old Timer's Club

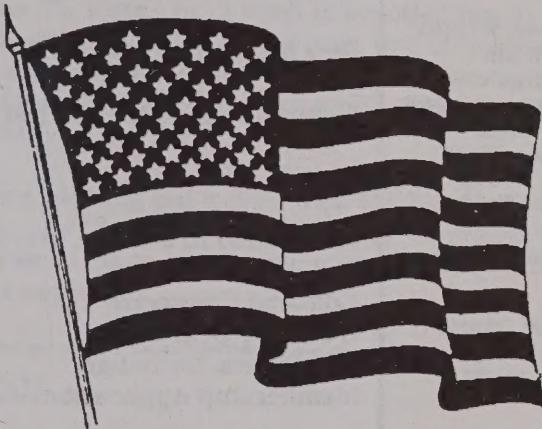


Volume 28

February, 1991

No. 1

OLD GLORY!



Of the several things considered for the cover page of SGT this issue, the American Flag won, hands down!

How proud we all stand, not because we were winners in a war but, because we were fighting for the principle of Freedom and of the dignity of man

This year of 1991 has brought to all of us the gift of pride in our people, men and women, in our leaders and in our defense of Liberty!

Once again, as they have in the past, American citizens have demonstrated their willingness to die in defense of freedom!

MAGAZINE FOR THE WIRELESS PIONEER

**The
Old Old Timers
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SPARK-GAP TIMES

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OOTC, INC
1409 Cooper Drive
Irving, Texas 75061

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

According to our present By Laws your President "Shall advise the Directors as to the more efficient functioning of the Club" and we will try to do so to the best of our ability. Our club was organized in 1947 and incorporated in 1964 in Rhode Island and all our corporate filings with that State are current but we need a new agent residing in Rhode Island, who will allow us to use his QTH as a bona fide address to comply with their law.

Your President is new to ham radio by comparison with most of our members that I have run across on the air. We are 73 and got our ticket on January 18, 1936 with the help of my uncle Herven, W2FYO - who is still active. Our fondest and oldest memories are with the old 5 meter band and some fooling around with radio with some of my high school pals. The school finally nailed us and said that any of the radio kits by Kreamer would put the best of the sets on the Fritz - hi. I used to practice law in New Jersey (my old call was W2JMG) with my dad, and our son, our only issue who is also a lawyer and now my daughter-in-law is taking the bar exam presently so there will be no lack of free legal advice in the family (but that kind of advice is worth exactly what you pay for it).

At present we are working out a plan with the blessing of our Board of Directors to make our Club more viable. I urge all readers of this great publication to write to me to give me their suggestion on how we may improve the Club in all its aspects

/s/ Duncan, W1GAY

THE WORD IS GO!

We are all set to put together some rules for an OOTC Home-Brew QSO Party. The skids are greased and all that remains are minimal rules and, for as many of you as possible to dig into your junk box and put together a simple rig. About the simplest is a 6V6 crystal osc driving an 807. If you want to go back a bit further, use a 45, or a 210 or whatever you can find and put it in a simple TNT. But, whatever your taste, do it. Some of the fellows jumped the gun and have already started building - one group out west have had a couple of home-brew flea markets featuring stuff that you need to build a simple rig.

There is plenty of time - we'll try to schedule it in the Fall, and info, rules, etc., will appear in the August issue of SGT. Time does skid by though, and you know how we old goats can stall! Now's the time to start building, testing, and getting ready.

In a more serious vein - while this appears to be a fun activity, it was really inspired by the events in the Persian Gulf. Tragedy (of their own making) struck that area. It is conceivable that tragedy, man-made or natural could strike this country. It is likewise conceivable that your ability to put together a simple CW rig might save lives. There was a time when we could all do it, hands down, blindfolded, and we proved it in WW-II. Lets don't lose our reputation and our ability to meet any emergency - no matter how unforeseen, or unlikely. As a matter of fact, the more unlikely tragedy is, the more certain we are that amateur radio will be the only means of communication! Turn to Page 10 for more info!

EDITORIAL NEWS, INFO AND CHATTER

It is difficult for us sitting closely in OOTC affairs to realize that not everyone has either the interest or incentive to think about ham radio and OOTC every day of their life. For this reason we sometimes appear to take it for granted that everyone should know exactly what goes on all the time. Well, such is certainly not the case. It is our duty to keep everyone informed, not only of changes in activities, procedures, etc., but to also talk of the nuts and bolts of OOTC.

OOTC is somewhat different than other Old-Timer groups in that you can qualify for OOTC membership even though you may only have had a ham license for a year. We require that to be eligible, you must have a currently valid amateur license and, that you communicated via radio, or other wireless means at least 40 years previous to your membership application. Since our requirement is specific only in total years, we often have no means to check membership applications. We do therefore accept potential members statements as fact. For instance, if you were in the Army in 1951 and actually used army radio to communicate and, if you currently have a ham license, then you are eligible for membership in OOTC.

Another unique fact about OOTC - when you are accepted as a member and assigned a membership number, you are a member for life. You have not been required to pay annual dues to OOTC to retain active membership. This may not always be the case but it is our operating procedure up to this time. The catch is that the OOTC publication you are reading, Spark Gap Times, does not come automatically. You must pay an annual fee to obtain it. This fee is currently \$7 per year USA and \$9 per year Internationally. It is this matter that we have been discussing in recent issues of SGT - attempting to figure out a way by which we might be able to insure that all living members of OOTC receive every issue of SGT. It is my feeling that you are entitled to all the information we have here, so let us record just how our membership records stood on February 28, 1991:

Total Membership Numbers issued	2906
Total Membership reported as Silent Keys	1518
Total Living Membership	1388
Members receiving SGT on Life basis	56
Members receiving SGT beyond 01/31/91	351
Members who do not receive SGT	981

From these figures you can see that 417 members now receive SGT, having paid for it either by annual payments, or by life payment. 981 do not receive SGT! Our problem is simply that to all intents and purposes, the 981 members are lost to us. They may have even forgotten that they were ever members. To me, this is an intolerable situation. If approximately 2/3 of our membership doesn't know we exist, what is our future? A last man Club?

(continued page 7)

EDITORIAL NEWS, INFO AND CHATTER

I believe that it is time for all of us to consider OOTC, its reason for existence, and are those reasons sufficient to warrant working to establish a means by which we can keep in touch with our membership through our publication, SGT?

There are all sorts of considerations in a matter of this nature. Those who have through the years paid for SGT might justifiably feel that those who didn't deserve no pity - a pox on them! But, At one time those delinquent members thought enough of OOTC to become a member. Why did they drop out? What did we do wrong, or what did we fail to do right? Shouldn't we attempt by all possible means to bring them back to OOTC?

Will you who read this SGT please consider. Give us your thoughts on the matter. A number of you have already written to us and sending gifts of money through which we might one day be able to provide SGT for all members. To those who have been participating in the matter, and encouraging us, a heartfelt thank you!. To those who might offer comment, please do so. We will publish excerpts of letters, and see to it that the Board of Directors is advised of your feelings in this important matter.

- 30 -

Many Years ago OOTC undertook to prepare and publish the now famous OOTC Blue Book. This was truly a mammoth undertaking. I have my copy, purchased in or about 1968. A loose-leaf volume of several hundred pages each having a short biographic sketch on about 4 members. Included, where available, were pictures of the member. This work stopped with the signing of Member #2520, about the year 1984. It was about the time of the death of President Ray Meyers, W6MiZ. Gus Gironda, W2JE came to the rescue and kept OOTC going as long as possible, then Gus' health gave him trouble, and it was necessary for W5EJ to attempt to carry on. None of us had either the background nor the ability of Ray and those who went before - a reason being that we weren't as young as we once were. OOTC records went from California to New York, then to California again, and then back to Texas. There were losses all down the line. As it now stands we have grown by about 400 members, and, we have their membership records but in many cases no pictures, or if there were pictures, they may have been lost. Putting together the approximately 100 pages that would be needed to accommodate approximately 400 new members would be a very sizeable task. It could be done. What we are asking is, should we devote the time to the project. Time will be required, and a good deal of money.

We are willing to undertake the job but only if the constraints are understood, and that membership feels the matter of sufficient importance. The biggest problem is to get pictures. We can, of course leave them out - leaving a place for them, but not worrying about them where they are not readily available. It is possible that a page or two could be done on a daily basis until the work is completed. This would require about 3 months spare time work.

We have about 15 sets of pages running back to the beginning - member No.

(continued page 8)

EDITORIAL NEWS, INFO AND CHATTER

1. It is not likely that new members would want to pay for these - or that they would even be interested in them but, we would have to have some sort of decision on that matter. Will you please write to your President, W1GAY. Give him you opinion on the matter so that if it is decided to do something, he can set up a committee to make studies and recommendations. Among considerations would be the need to determine how many pages would be included in a book, preparation of those pages, preparation of a suitable loose-leaf binder, establishing costs to members, etc. Your comments and help will be appreciated

FROM THE DECEMBER, 1945 ISSUE OF QST:

To permit the assignment of thousands of additional amateur station calls that do not exceed a total of five characters, FCC on October 24th approved a new system for postwar amateur calls. The old system involving nine call areas, identical with long-since-abandoned inspection districts and involving the splitting of some states, now gives way to a new plan embracing the ten call areas shown on our map -- which is substantially as reported on page 20 of QST for September, which you may wish to see for further details. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continue in the fourth call area, and Hawaii and the Pacific possessions in the sixth -- except for the islands adjacent to Alaska which go along with the latter in W7 as previously.

One change of considerable significance has been made from the original ARRL recommendation report in July QST: After the present W series is exhausted in

any call area, a similar series will be started using the prefix K instead of W. The matter of "shifting the digit" (to make such calls as WA9AA) will therefore not confront us until we have gone through two complete sets of calls. The use of K for this purpose will not destroy its identification value for outlying territories and possessions, since use on the mainland will involve 3-letter calls and a single-



letter prefix (such as K1AAA), while outlying areas will have 2-letter calls and two letter prefixes, for example, KG6AA in Guam, KV4AA in the Virgin Islands.

The New system of course will be operative when FCC resumes the business of new licenses. We have no information yet as to when existing calls will be changed to accord with the new plan. This material taken from QST, December, 1945 issue, pp 31-32.

SGT

thought you'd like to see the cover of the 1924 Callbook!

Note the price! Of course, it only had a few pages.

The 1991 callbook lists 537,224 amateurs with 1560 pages

It sells for \$29.95 (a bargain)

CITIZENS RADIO CALL BOOK
A Complete Radio Cyclopedia

NEW ISSUE NOW READY

A complete revised list of all Telephone Broadcasting Stations showing Call letters, wave lengths, kilocycles, class, schedules, time these schedules are based on and station slogan. Also listed by states in case you miss the call letters.

All American, Canadian, English, French, and Australian Amateur and experimental stations with complete American Radio Relay League Directory. Also Canadian Broadcasting Stations. Complete list of Commercial ship and land Stations of the United States. High Power Land stations of every country in the world. "How to build the new Regenerative Super Heterodyne," by Lawrence M. Cockaday. Also suggestions for the beginners. Graphic illustrations of all the latest hookups with construction and operating data shown in such a way that anyone can build their favorite set.

Maps, log sheets, blank recording map, distance chart, kilocycle-meter table, Continental code and other items too numerous to mention.

ALL FOR ONLY... 50c

Add parcel postage as follows: West of Denver to Salt Lake City, 17c. West of Salt Lake City, 24c. All other American points, 15c. Canada and foreign countries, 25c.

If you are interested in a monthly service, send us \$1.50 and we will mail you each month a list of all the changes in Amateur and Broadcasting Stations until the new issue comes out next October.

Make sure that you will get the next issue promptly by mailing us \$1.25 for one year's subscription. This includes parcel postage.

Dealers write for our guaranteed plan of sale.

CITIZEN'S RADIO SERVICE BUREAU
508 South Dearborn Street CHICAGO, ILL.
Department B

OOTC ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

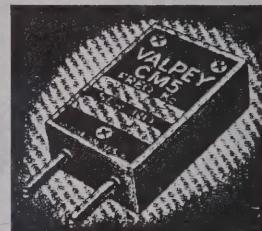
OOTC Pins	\$3.50
OOTC Coat Patches	\$5.00
OOTC stickers, 125	\$2.50
Decals, Not yet available	

More on a Home-Brew Sweepstakes!

Back a couple of issues ago, SGT suggested we might have a Home-Brew Party. There hasn't been much reaction but, what there has been has been positive. We've received the OK from our President, and so we'll set up a party for the Fall of 1991!. Read the following letter to see if it doesn't charge your battery!

"That's a great idea put forth in the September, 1990 SGT for an OOTC Home-Brew Sweepstakes. I'm all for it! Besides the fun of operating an old-time rig or a newly made old-time rig, there are a number of positive elements in the effort for all OOTC members:

1. Building or dusting off a transmitter one knows about
2. Opening the junk box with a purpose in mind
3. Hunting for parts no longer made or used - one would have to visit other old timers to scrounge parts - that in itself would be worth the operation
4. Actually tuning a portion of the band for crystal controlled answers to your CQ - (let's assume quite a few crystal rigs)
5. Running QRP again, following drift, giving and getting some T6, 7 or 8 QRH reports, etc.
6. Exchanging dope - "wat u uzn OM?" - getting a description of the old rig
7. Using CW again even if you are down to 5 wpm!



The Famous FT-243

I propose only tubes, not more than 2 or 3 exclusive of the power supply. Only CW. Only 40 & 20 meters to cover the country; tube receivers if possible (extra points); multiplier for each call district worked; a Friday/Saturday or a Sunday/Monday period - the weekday to escape solid weekend QRM! Pictures! I would also suggest participants append /SGT to their calls during the sweepstakes to identify those for whom we are looking!"

Editors Note: This letter by Joe Saugier, K6CD (2842) got me going pretty good. Now, I hope that it has done the same for you and that you'll join us in putting together a rig. A TNT with a 210 or a '45, whatever you can find! 5 watts will be a plenty. If trying to put together a receiver is too much, use your regular receiver. For those who can get one going, extra points. We need to get an OOTC member on from each district, and it would be great if we could get 50 or 60 homebrew rigs on the air. I can even see that those members who for one reason or another cannot build up a homebrew transmitter should be welcomed - using no more than 5 or 10 watts to any rig. A picture of the rig, working, would be required of all taking part so that we could get out a great story. The second year we might have a whole flock on the air! President W1GAY has given his assent to the Party. I can see no reason why we can't have it set up in the fall SGT, rules and all, for a September/October Party! Watch for SGT, and if you have ideas, send them to W5EJ.

From Ralph Held, K6QS, comes reminiscences of WW-II - During WW-II I was sent to Johnson Island to maintain the shore radar station. I was on watch on the inter-island steamer USS Midway helping out on a bright sunny afternoon. The Fox sked was on and I would listen for the address heading to see if our ship was called. I had the World Series baseball game on and with the chair back against the bulkhead on two legs, reading Readers Digest. All of a sudden a noise so loud I clamped my hands over my ears to shut out most of the noise and in so doing recovered some of my senses. I looked around the shack then thought we had been hit by a torpedo. No, it turned out there was a 50 calibre machine gun mounted on top of the metal shack ceiling on the deck above. They were firing target practice. Needless to say I spent some time telling them where to get off (under my breath).

Another item which may be of interest on Johnson Island. We received six Abbott transceivers. No one knew what to do with them until I said I had used them on 5 meters ham radio. So they gave me the job of setting up an alert system that we could talk from the comm dugout to the outside. When that was proven I took a bulb from a flashlight and tuned the units for maximum power. For some reason there was more power outside the ham band! So we had one mounted in a truck that was my station when we had GQ drills at night. The Captain of the base, Martine Group, Comm Officer, Admin, all had one of these units.

We also provided a transmitter to send MOs to the aircraft scanning the ocean - this transmitter was on loan from a Hawaiian ham - I believe the call plate on the front panel was KH6RVG. We shunted the plate current meter and got about 500 watts out. While behind the transmitter for some work, I touched the antenna lead and I can say that an RF burn takes time to heal!

A letter from Andy Anderson, KONL is always a pleasure. Andy has done more for, and written more about ham radio than any six of the rest of us. Just a few words from his latest epistle: "I enjoy OOTC's SGT immensely, it is always very interesting. Having produced a monthly newsletter (never missing an issue for 35 years) I can understand how much effort is required to get it in the mail. I was 81 last Wednesday and I sure "ain't the feller" I was 10 years ago, but I am trying to get along as well as possible. Was first licensed in 1929, still have the original ticket, I joined the Naval Reserve the same year. Still in the reserve, with rank of Captain - maybe I'll be called to active duty in the Iraqi matter!"

Harold Mahlke, W8QG wrote with regard to the matter of SGT - "my suggestion is to change the dues structure so that starting immediately, all new memberships will include an annual charge to include the cost of administration, publishing and mailing of SGT plus a margin for profit and contingency fund. Those non-paying members who seem to be happy with the present system will eventually be lost due to attrition. Those members who are presently contributing will be asked and encouraged to continue as they are presently doing. In this way, only those members who are paying their way will continue to receive SGT and eventually all OOTC members will be paying subscribers to SGT."

Thanks go to Harold for writing and sharing his thoughts. We will continue to mull over this matter and eventually reach some sort of decision on a plan which the Board of Directors can consider.

KNOWN OOTC BIRTHDAYS

If your birthday isn't listed send us a card with your full birthdate, we'll get it in next time around!

MARCH

1	W6TZV, W8SDO	18	W1CTN
3	W7DH	19	DL6VL, K4FZ, W8WNK
5	KA6NPV	20	K4HYY, W5ENI
6	W6MK, W6OD	21	K6ZUO, W6ZRZ, W1PRT
7	W6KJP, W0GFQ, DJ5ND, DL8AJ	22	W0IWV, WA3EXX, K4ZI, KA3KUA, N9CJI, W6SXW, DJ3BE
8	W4WNY, W1AZP	23	KE4RY, KC2CB, G2WQ
9	DL1YK, W6QHL, W3HZT, W6AGZ	24	W4IKU, NC5K, W8CWY, K4HDV
10	W2LDE, W5UCW, W1JY	25	WOLV
11	DL9YP	26	W2RLY, AA6DI, W1BML
12	W8AQ, C6ANU, K4NTS, WA0DFF	27	W9REC, VU2MD
13	W7BQG, W6CL	28	KD8WP
14	W2GA, K4JMH, DK8ZZ	29	BV2A, DL6TL
15	W6MCV	30	W9PW, PY2NH, W6SPQ

MAY

1	W0IZV, W5LMQ, W8FDG, K1UIL
2	W1SZJ, W3EVW
4	W4RTE
5	W8BIF
6	N7FYD, DL1SF, W5UGI
7	WOEFR
8	N3WW, W6NQJ, K1GHK
9	W0CKI
10	W8IHX, WB6VPY, W1AYI
12	W3GY, W6DIX, W7GB
14	W6GED, W8FWQ, W1IYX, W6BF
15	W6EHM, W7GEY, KE0KI, DL1VU
16	K2SN, W6ONK, WOLR, DL6MM, N8DR, N4ITM, WA8LAY
18	W9BUA, K4OV, W5HR
20	W8AHB, W1BGW, N3HWA
21	VK6KK, W2OEQ
22	KE7K, W6DXG, K7QV, WK7A
23	W3CU, W2TLC, W4IYT, W8BHT
24	W6HDT, WB6APX, W6FQ
25	W6QLO, W2PPS, W9DI, W3BTR
26	KC2PS, DL7CY
27	XE1AX, K6CD
28	W9SG, W8SK, W3HHC
29	W5DHE, AA6J
30	W0RAL
31	W6EKM, W7LVB

APRIL

1	W4NH
2	K6QJ, W4UF, DF7IL
3	DL1YB
4	N7DGZ, K8GRO, W3RMQ, W5BQE, W6AKM
5	W1GUP
6	DK5LI
7	W5EJ, W2BGN, W6ABR, W3HNY
8	W9EBY
9	W3DB, DL3QY
10	W8LS, OZ1IYQ
11	W6QEU, DJ0MV
12	K7MD, W6PL, K5ABD
14	W6ASN

LETTERS

From: George Graveson, K4JI, 332 E Acre Dr, Plantation, FL 33317-2643 - ".... for your info: While sailing aboard the Great White Fleet during 1924-1925, I met Paul Gallant, later W4EOJ, who was operating at WAX, Miami TRT station. You may know that he passed on in May, 1982. We became fast friends when I helped him get a job at WEAF, which I had joined in 1925. His wife, Alice, lives in a retirement home in Boca Raton, FL, and I visit her at least once a month, usually after attending a GOLDCOASTERS luncheon. She is ninety and not in good health. Anyone who wants to write her can get her address from me. I'm sure she would appreciate it. She is quite deaf so I do not recommend telephoning her. In case you do not know it, she is Ray Meyers (W6MLZ) sister!

While we're about it, letters come in indicating that some OOTC members who were sea-going radio officers, attended one of the schools that were available back in the 30's. Port Arthur College is one of them, pictured here. It was active into the early 1960's I believe, and hundreds of operators earned their license for commercial operation at that school. If you will drop us a card telling us when you attended, we'll make up a list of grads of PAC and publish it for all to get re-acquainted.

Research Data Assembled

During the past 4 years we have been using our spare time to assemble information on Amateur Operator Silent Key information. The primary source of our information was the Silent Key reports published in QST. The three and a half years were spent recording data in QST back to about 1924. After that we had received the Bookmaster microfiche films from Bert Ayers, W6CL, that provide photocopies of every page of QST from Volume 1, No. 1, through 1985. This added source of information allowed us to complete the work of recording every known silent key listing published in 75 years of the existence of the ARRL and QST.

The work has been compiled on our Compaq Portable III computer using dBase III as the vehicle. The data included the Name, the call, the city and the month/

(continued on page 19)

NEW MEMBERS IN QOTC

Paul W Ford, W6HFV (2890)
Arthur P Kay, W5APX (2891)
Donald C Friedmann, W3QYL (2892)
J. A. Listing, PA0JAL (2893)
John F A Verzyl, EA8BDT (2894)
Donald E Williamson, K4HVI (2895)
H Hap Arnold, KB4BSO (2896)
Axel Grams, DL6GX (2897)
Heinz Kutzner, DL9IE (2898)
W A Davis, N3HWA (2899)
A Kenneth Johnson, W6FU (2900)
Harold I Judson, N6ZHW (2901)
Ronald A Young, W6MHT (2902)
George Roth, N0LAG (2903)

QOTC'S 14 CLUB

Orville Underwood, W8BDR
Robert A Curtis, W1EXZ
Gerald J Olivier, W5NJJ
Offin G Boardman, WC4D
Frank Galvin, W1DMH
Philip W Amborn, W6PA
Aaron D Solomon, VE1OC
Fred H Ferguson, W6GED
George E Favre, W3PEV
Merlin F Stuewer, W8FWQ
John G Ditmer, W0IZV
J Russell Snedeker, W2EEQ

QOTS'S \$21 CLUB

Allen H Janssen, WA6TAL
Edward J McGee, W0RAL
Irving P Wolfe, W5RQH
Thomas H Haymond, W8CCN

OOTC'S \$28 CLUB

Leroy Lewis, W7CBA (2213)
Paul J Bedoian Sr. W1HRJ (1539)
Donald K Johnson, W6AAQ (2273)

THE SGT ESCROW ACCOUNT

The Escrow Account was established as an interim program whose goal would be to provide funding for printing and mailing SGT to all members which, if finally implemented, would eliminate need for annual dues to receive SGT. While earmarked for this purpose, interest earned will be returned to the fund until it is activated. The fund may be re-designated by action of the Board of Directors

Those who have contributed to the OOTC Escrow Account*

Andy Anderson, K0NL; George Sperry, W4UKA;
Albert Weiss, K6VU; John Hoffer, W8CWY
Orville Underwood, W8BDR; Ethel Smith, K4LMB
Gilberto Penna, PY1AFA; Ted Heithecker, W5EJ
Fred Linn, W9NZF; Ralph Hasslinger, W2CVF

OOTC MEMBERS REPORTED AS SILENT KEYS

Old Old Timers note with regret and sorrow the passing
of our friends who have become Silent Keys
and express our sincere condolences to their families and associates.

John McCaa, W4HA (445)	Ralph A Rusca, W5CB (1501)
Carl E Mosley, W0FQY (480)	Grant Nonnamaker, K2QXQ (1606)
George A Hatherell, K6LK (588)	Robert T Parsonson, W6AH (1619)
Ray E Jacobs, W6KD (1087)	Verl E Lee, W6EPU (1731)
Nathaniel S Davis, K5LUJ (1163)	Frank C Carman, W7KBF (1794)
Werner Feilhauer, DL3JE (1188)	Melvin L Backstrom, W3DM (1913)
Alex J Connolly, K6AC (1271)	Charles Harold Chorley, G5YH (2087)
Walley Newman, W6FEX (1280)	William J Edens, W5TDG (2098)
George P Raiselis, W1BTZ (1317)	Adolf Ehni, DL12SX (2108)
John L Evans, W8BXM (1323)	Chester Stewart Hoeper, W4MX (2297)
Howard K Smith, W6WSX (1363)	Henry F Harding, K7OMI (2374)
Russell F Hobart, W1AAR (1378)	Robert F Crocker, N4ARC (2632)
John H Pitman, W1LY (1493)	Francis W Brashears, W0CJH (2803)

HAM RADIO IN GERMANY BEFORE WW-II

Lother Meuter, DL6QZ (2356)
8400 Regensburg, Germany

In the SGT of Summer, 1990, I spoke to you of ham-radio in the free city of Danzig. Now, I will report on ham radio in the years before 1940. All of the equipment in Danzig was homebuilt. It was impossible to buy parts - they were very expensive, and very scarce. Tubes, condensers, resistors and coils suitable for ham radio were next to impossible to find. The only source of parts was old radio sets which could be occasionally found in second-hand shops. These receivers had battery type tubes which were not very good for amateur frequencies. The leads and sockets were too long and massive. We soon found that if we removed the base and shortened the wires, we could get them to work as high as ten meters. This required that the tubes leads be soldered directly to the tuning condensers and coils. This tube carried the number RE 084, and I do not know if it was of European or American origin. Using this tube required a filament battery of 4 volts and a plate battery of 100 volts.

For the ham transmitter the best tube we could find was the RE 134. This tube, properly prepared, in a Hartley circuit, could give us about 1.5 watts of output power. With this little power we worked all over Europe. A real problem was getting enough plate voltage - we built our own transformers, sometimes getting as much as 500 volts AC. The variable condensers, from the old receivers were generally of about 500 pFd. We dismantled them, removing plates to get 100 or even 25 pFd units for use on the 10 and 20 meter amateur bands.

And then it was the antenna. Our best antenna was the Zeppelin with 600 ohm feeder. It had a "roostladder" and worked good for our DX. The length was cut for either 20 or 40 meters. The next best antenna was a long-wire. We worked many countries and had fine QSOs with this simple equipment. Our callsigns were YM4--, very desirable for other countries to contact. Using of course, only CW. The same condition exists today in Andorra, with C3, or Monaco, with 3A. It was not until 1950 in the new Germany that one could buy amateur radio equipment. Never the less, it was a very nice time in the old Free City of Danzig!

Editor's note: Lother's letter has been re-phrased a little, but the words and circumstances are exactly as he described. We want to thank him for writing to Bill Miller, K2GCE, who forwarded his letter to us for inclusion in this issue of SGT!

UX-852

We thought you might like to see a picture of the old UX-852, one of the most popular amateur tubes in the late 20's and early 30s. It was in the best amateur tradition - would work on any achievable frequency in those days, had good power capability, and could be overloaded at least 200 percent with reasonable assurance that it would survive! There was only one real problem with it - it was not widely used in broadcast stations so it could neither be "liberated" nor obtained from the used tube stock. If you wanted this "giant" you had to cough up the shekels to get it. The price? In 1929 it was \$24.50.

At that time, I was not yet in the full-time job market, and as a "step-n-fetchit" employee of the local electric shop, my weekly salary of \$4.00 made the purchase only a dream!

But back to the 852 - it was a magnificent and inspiring tube - It burned with proud and defiant brilliance! Just seeing it setting there glowing, plate red hot, was enough send a young, 1929 ham, very close to Heaven!

I personally dislike the term "Senior Citizen"
It rings sort of like calling a janitor a "building custodian"
but,

Since we are old-timers, the following appearing in the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel makes some good points in which we can take some pride!

"Senior Citizens are constantly being criticized, belittled and sniped at for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real & imaginary.

Upon reflection, I would like to point out that it wasn't the senior citizens who took the melody out of music, or the beauty out of art, or the pride out of appearance, or the romance out of love, the commitment out of marriage, the responsibility out of parenthood, togetherness out of family, learning out of education, loyalty out of Americanism, service out of patriotism, the hearth out of the home, civility out of behavior, refinement out of language, dedication out of employment, prudence out of spending or ambition out of achievement.

And, we certainly are not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from relationships." -- Jerome J. Goldstein, Boca Raton

HAM RADIO DURING WW-II

We had crossed Omaha Beach, and proceeded through France & Belgium, and were sitting in Luxembourg from September until December, 1944. We were rudely awakened early one morning to find that the Battle of the Bulge was upon us. After 10 days of almost continuous defensive combat, the remnants of the 9th Armored Division were relieved and ordered back to billets in Belgium. Purpose being to refit, to receive replacement personnel, and to make ready for our counter attack.

The little Belgium town was far enough back to permit some freedom of action, but no guarantee against German aircraft. Since my Signal Company was set up in the middle of town, I had posted a note on the town bulletin board, instructing all citizens to surrender any radio equipment in their posession, and to present it at the Signal Office for inspection. The next day, a Belgian showed up with a lot of electrical equipment in a wheelbarrow. One look was all it took to realize that the collection was not the result of dismantling a transmitter, but simply a random collection of parts. I questioned him rather closely, and he could speak enough English that I could understand that he was trying to explain ham radio to me. I went into the office & brought one of my QSL cards that produced a sudden reaction. He invited me to come back to his home he wanted to show me his station. He lived on the edge of town, a large building with a slate roof, and a big barn in the rear. No antennas visible, obviously. He said that the Wermacht had searched his house and barn several times with no result. We went down into the basement where I noticed a large woodpile along one wall. He moved this aside, showing a hole in the wall, giving access to his shack. He had a 200 watt rig and two receivers.

In the ensuing discussion, it turned out that he was a relay station in the "underground railroad" carrying downed flyers out to get back to England. He talked to a British station every day to give progress reports. He also had a tunnel between the house and barn for obvious reasons. His antenna was most ingenious it was the copper flashing along the ridge pole, and since his chimney was in the center of the roof, the flashing made a perfect dipole. We stayed in Etalle, Belgium for about a week, and I saw him frequently, but never did get another chance to visit him. Since we went on into Germany and the German troops never got back to his town, I was fairly certain that he survived. His neighbors were all in sympathy with what he was doing, and he had miraculously survived 4 years of communication. The Germans had some pretty good DF gear, and if he used full power (200 watts), it was almost unbelievable that he wouldn't have been picked up.

Editors Note: Stories of this type are welcome and solicited. This one was prepared by Fred Linn, W9NZF - particularly appropriate now since at composing time, we are again fighting a war. Thank you, Fred, for a fine story. Fred's address is: Fred A. Linn, W9NZF, N59 W5608 Edgewater, Cedarburg, WI 53012!

Charles Campbell, W9UEM Honored!

Charlie Campbell, W9UEM, had no warning that he was to be named Amateur of the Year! He had been working at the Indianapolis Hamfest in July, 1990 and was in the process dismantling the Hamfest Prize Booth when out of the PA system came the following announcement: "The Indiana Radio Club Council takes great pleasure in presenting the Outstanding Amateur of the Year to Charles E Campbell, W9UEM. - Charles has been active with the IRCC for over 30 years. He holds the Hoosier Courtesy Award and has helped others to receive it. He has been especially active over the years on the Indiana Traffic Net, regularly serving as net control several times weekly, as well as filling in when needed. Indiana amateurs are involved in reporting precipitation daily to the National Weather Service at Indianapolis and Charles was one of the early anchor stations, reporting daily, by telephone. He has been a member of the Indianapolis Hamfest Committee, helping set up and man the prize booth during the Hamfest for several years. Charles is a 50-year member of the Indianapolis Radio Club and helped Wes Murphy, N9AJM with compiling and publishing the 1984 Central Indiana Amateur Radio Directory. Charlie is also a member of the Helping Hams Radio Club which aids county authorities in checking operation of the many warning sirens in Marion County. - Always friendly, always willing to help, Charles Campbell, W9UEM, is most deserving of this Award."

Research Data Assembled (continued from page 13)

year of publication in QST. It was assembled in decades. The first Volume is 1915 - 1919. The second Volume, 1920 - 1929, and so on through Volume 8 for the decade 1980 - 1989. In recent years there have been so many changes in call-signs, that we have deemed them secondary in identifying a Silent Key. The Name is considered primary, and all Volumes have been sorted by Name. The eight volumes have a total of approximately 35,000 entries.

In recent years the ARRL has dropped its original policy of listing Silent Keys who, at the time of death, no longer had a license. Accordingly, we have set up a file which will include all of those for whom we can get information as well as any who for whatever reason are not listed in the QST Silent Key lists. We solicit your notification of the death of any amateur. We will include the information in our files.

The information in these Volumes is available to help anyone desiring information on the status of any amateur. It should be clearly understood that not every Silent Key is reported to QST and so may not be listed in our files either. If you wish to know whether an old friend might have been listed as SK, drop a card, give his full name (middle too), his call, and the last year that you had personal knowledge of him. A SASE, or self-addressed postcard would be appreciated. There is no charge for the service.

This will be a continuing work. Arrangements have been made with John Miller, W0IKT, to continue to work into the 21st Century. We want to acknowledge his help in compiling, proof-reading and assembly of the Volumes of information.

EDITORIAL NEWS, INFO AND CHATTER

To be really worthwhile, every human organization must have goals toward which its members may direct their energies. In the case of OOTC, it is important that goals should be attainable considering our age and the normal infirmities of our members.

Since OOTC members by definition have many years of experience in electronics and communications, it would seem reasonable to expect that we could explain and promote the advantages of careers in radio and electronics to pre-college age boys and girls. It is not reasonable to expect all of us to prepare talks or lectures and many of us would not qualify as inspiring speakers but, we can operate tape playbacks, slide projectors and video equipment. And, it is my feeling that most of us could handle audience participation questions in an adequate manner.

If we could obtain near professional quality prepared stories having no bias toward particular organization(s), it is certain that our services would be welcomed in our own communities. That is, if we were available to deliver a program for organizations such as, schools, retirement homes, hospitals, service clubs etc., we would fill a needed service and you can be certain that we would be invited to make our presentation(s). Doing this kind of work might guide many, young and old alike, into the semi-scientific community of radio/electronics/communications. It is our conviction that much can be done by promoting interest in the scientific community through the introduction of our young people, and our older citizens, to the wonders of electronic communications. After all, nearly everyone in communications today was at first, an amateur! Who could possibly deny that OOTC members have the life experiences and the talents to plan and execute some such goal, or mission which might create a basic OOTC Heritage for the future!

Special Announcement!!!

This is our invitation for the German Members of OOTC to provide one or two pages for OOTC's summer issue. We would propose that they send copy written in German, for our German members, and we will do our very best to print it exactly like they send it. If pictures are sent, be sure to include a caption and, it would help a whole lot if an English translation of the material was furnished too! This is a Challenge! How about it?

And then, the story of the OOTC member who, stopped and waiting a traffic light to change, was suddenly shocked by a car crashing into his rear bumper. He was not seriously hurt, and to the relief of the police officers whose car had rammed him, he emerged and walked back to the Officers. They were somewhat put out with him when their victim asked "Officer, how do you stop your car when I'm not parked there?"

OOTC'S PIPELINE

Learned from George, K6JIO, that Paul Gallant's W4EOJ, widow is a resident in a nursing home in Boca Raton, FL. Ray Meyers, W6MLZ was also her brother.

After 15 years Bill, K4TF has stepped down as net manager of the Southeast Net, so he could have more time with his family.

Carl, WA0DFF, is trying to locate some parts (See Old Timer's Exchange) to help grandson, age ten, build crystal sets. Maybe we have a budding ham in our midst. Any help would be appreciated.

Received a fine letter from Lothar Meuter, DL6QZ, who sadly informs me that Werner Koch, DL1EQ, ex YM4AY, had become a Silent Key in June of this year. His letter was forwarded to Ted and hopefully find its way into the pages of SGT in the future.

Your columnist is in need of two tubes, a 6BM8 and a 7360. Help is needed and will be appreciated.

Ken, W6NKE dropped us a note to let us know that a great time was had by all at the OOTC Chapter 2 meeting held at the QTH of K6SS. All who attended that fine meeting want to thank Len and Ilke for their hospitality! Among other activities at the meeting, Ken, W6NKE and Gene, KA6HOQ were re-elected President and Secretary respectively for 1991! Incidentally, Ken reports he has a new QTH - the roster address is no longer valid - write him at 1813 Moreno Dr, Simi Valley, CA 93063.

Congratulations go to Frank, W2ALS and Don, W2GP who have reached 70 years in Amateur Radio and who have received the 70-Year Golden Certificates from QCWA! And, speaking of QCWA, Esther, W6BDE is giving up her work writing of QCWA for World Radio. She's been at it for a long time. Her successor is Ethel, K4LMB - congratulations to both of you Ladies.

Congratulations and best wishes to our new President Duncan Kreamer, W1GAY. It is our hope that your term of office will be not only pleasant, but fulfilling. And how can we overlook the fine job that our Ted, W5EJ, did filling in until a president could be elected. Congratulations to both of you!

It has just come to our attention that in November, Pete, W2WSS, completed his thirteenth year as manager of the Empire Slow Speed Net. Although the Net is an independent net as far as the ARRL is concerned, it is still a very active one in the ARRL traffic system. Congratulations, Pete!

Since our last column we have received a very nice Christmas card from Lothar, DL6QZ and his lovely wife, Leni. Also, right after the holidays a letter was received. Hopefully we will get a letter off to you before you leave for your holidays.

It was good to hear from Nelson, K1SRF, that he and the XYL were able to spend time with their daughter and her family in North Carolina. He also mentioned that after the first of the year he will be officially retired and a member of that august body known as "The Perpetual Vacationers". Good luck, Nelson.

This issue of the Pipeline is necessarily short as no material was received by me since the last issue of SGT. I would like both Columns PIPELINE and the OLD TIMERS' EXCHANGE to continue, but they will not unless they are backed by you the membership. Therefore, if you have any items that you feel would be of interest to the membership send them along and I will see to it that they appear in PIPELINE. The same holds true for the OLD TIMERS' EXCHANGE. If there is something that you would like to sell or swap, or would care to obtain, this is where to come! Send your dope and info to me as soon as you can!

Bill Miller, K2GCE
217 Porterfield PL
Freeport, NY 11520-3116

OLD TIMERS' EXCHANGE

This column is open to any OOTC member who may have anything to sell or who has a need for some item. There are two requirements: (1) you must be a member of OOTC and (2) any item listed must be available at the time of reply to an adv. Send your inserts to:

Bill Miller, K2GCE
217 Porterfield PL, Freeport, NY 11520

Wanted: Two crystal detector assemblies complete with galena crystals. These for my Grandson;s school science project.

Carl H Larson, WA0DFF
407 Pearl St, Bedford, IA 50833

Wanted: Two-pc mount assmby for 204-A tube, RCA UT-1085, 1086
orequal.

Richared G. Schroeter, W6CKU (818 347 7614)
23445 Califa St, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Wanted: Millen type 43000 end-linked coil for Millen 50-w exciter, also a
Millen Variarm VFO

Robert L. Kurth, W5IRP
403 Mantooth Ave, Lufkin, TX 75901-2800

Wanted: In good cdx, 300-watt antenna tuner

Wallace E. White, N4JCS
320 Ohio Ave, Saint Cloud, FL 34769

For Sale: Johnson Signal Sentry complete w/tubes & schematic, no pwr
supply. Make offer

Bill Miller, K2GCE (516 379 8337)
217 Porterfield PL, Freeport, NY 11520

PERSONAL DATA SHEET

To: New Members:

The purpose of this sheet is to get information about yourself and your background in communications. This information may be used in any Blue Book publication considered by OOTC. Fill in all the spaces possible. We would also like to have a 2 x 2 picture of yourself, black and white if possible.

Information Requested:

Name _____ Call _____ OOTC# _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Nickname _____

Date and place of birth

First on air _____, First Amateur Call _____

Married _____, wifes name _____

Military Service: Branch _____, Regular _____ Reserve _____ Rtd _____

Served From _____, to _____ Highest Rank _____

Background Story Material

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2

Attach a check in the amount of \$22.00. Of this \$15.00 will be for EEC membership and \$3.00 for installation fee. An additional \$7.00 (USA) \$9.00 (International) to be

included if Spark Gap Times is desired. Return this form complete, to the person who provided it, or mail it to:

OOTC, Inc. 1409 Cooper Dr. Irving, Texas 75061

The Old Old Timers Club

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RADIO WAS MUCH SIMPLER?
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